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fore, to bring out the phenomenon in such a way as to divest it of its paradoxical features. Perhaps the most insinuatingly paradoxical aspect of the phenomenon is that which is
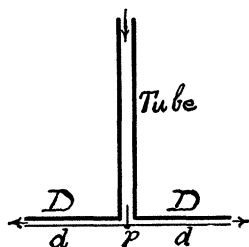

FIG. 1.

presented by the well-known toy which consists of a flat metal disk DD, Fig. 1, at the end of a metal tube and a light metal disk dd, which is hindered from moving sidewise by a pin p which projects into the tube. Blowing through the tube causes the disk dd to be held tightly against the disk DD.
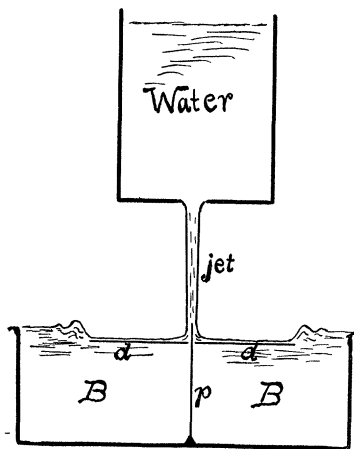

FIG. 2.

Fig. 2 shows an arrangement in which all of the essential actions which enter into the behavior of Fig. 1 are reproduced in a more easily intelligible form. A light metal disk dd is prevented from moving sidewise by a pin p, and a jet of water impinging upon the center of the disk dd causes it to float. The thin stream of water which moves radially outwards over the surface of the disk maintains a wall of water around the edge of the disk, and the disk floats very much as if it were a shallow pan with a metal rim. Over the surface of the disk the thin stream of water has a high velocity and a low level (pressure) and at the edge it raises itself to a higher level (pressure) as it loses its velocity. So, in the case of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1, the thin stream of air between the two disks has a high velocity and a low pressure and at the edge of the disks it raises itself to a higher pressure (atmospheric pressure) as it loses its velocity. Evidently, then, the air between the disks dd and DD of Fig. 1 is at a lower pressure than the outside air and the difference in pressure operates to hold the disks together. W. S. Franklin.

THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF FOSSIL SEALS IN AMERICA.

To the Editor of Science: While engaged in collecting fossils for the National Museum from the northern range of the Calvert Cliffs, on the west shore of Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, during the summer and fall of 1905, I had the good fortune to find bones of true seals, which are, so far as I am aware, the first authentic remains of American fossil seals. As the Calvert Cliffs are entirely Miocene at their northern end, these bones can safely be assigned to that geological period. They will be described later in the *Proceedings* of the National Museum.

Remains from several localities in the United States, supposed to be those of seals, have been described or alluded to by Leidy and other writers, but, as shown by Dr. Allen's careful review, they are all of doubtful authenticity, ' not a single extinct species having been certainly determined.' F. W. True.

U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.,
November 23, 1905.

A BLAZING BEACH.

In the early part of September the papers throughout the country gave wide publicity to the occurrence of a phenomenon at Kittery Point, Me., which attracted much local consideration because of its sensational aspects, and which might be correctly described as a